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MORNING PAPERS : MONDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1949.

EVENING PAPERS : MONDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1949.

BROADCASTING STATIONS : MIDNIGHT, SUNDAY, 20th FEBRUARY, 1949.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS - DECEMBER, 1948

Rise in Employment during 1948

During the year 1948 the number of wage and salary earners (exclusive of workers in rural industry and females in private domestic service) rose from 2,329,000 in December, 1947 to 2,416,700 in December, 1948. Of the total rise of 87,700 (3.8 per cent.) 62,300 were males and 25,400 were females. The figure for December, 1948 was an all-time record for Australia.

Change in State Figures

The numbers in employment in each State and Territory were as follows:

State	December 1947	December 1948
New South Wales	949,400	981,400
Victoria	657,400	682,900
Queensland	302,700	311,900
South Australia	194,000	203,700
Western Australia	143,400	149,500
Tasmania	70,400	74,000
Northern Territory	4,200	4,700
Aust. Cap. Territory	7,500	8,600
Commonwealth	2,329,000	2,416,700

Thus it may be seen that the rise during the year was general.

Changes in Industrial Groups

Of the major industrial groups Manufacturing increased during the year by 2.9 per cent. from 873,500 to 899,200; Building and Construction increased by 7.1 per cent. from 162,800 to 174,300; Transport increased by 5.5 per cent from 294,900 to 311,100; Retail Trade increased from 238,100 to 248,200 (4.2 per cent.) and wholesale and other commerce increased from 142,000 to 149,000 or 5.4 per cent. Public Authority Activity n.e.i. (mainly administrative) rose from 107,800 to 109,800 or 1.9 per cent. during the same period.

Changes during December

During the month of December, 1948, most of the fluctuations in employment were largely due to seasonal conditions. The number of employees in Retail Trade rose by 8,300, while factory employment fell by 3,800. Government employment rose by 3,800 due largely to temporary employment of postal staff to handle Christmas business and the temporary employment of students during vacation. Total employment rose by 8,500 persons.

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CANBERRA. A.C.T. 18TH FEBRUARY, 1949